

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DRC-01 SAJ-01 H-03 /085 W  
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R 050853Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9804

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: JA PINT

SUBJ: JAPANESE PRESS REACTION TO STATE OF UNION MESSAGE

1. COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATE OF UNION MESSAGE, JAPANESE PRESS HAD LITTLE TO SAY ON SPECIFICS, ALTHOUGH SOME SUPPORT WAS EXPRESSED FOR WHAT WAS CONSIDERED PRESIDENT'S NEW EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS. PRIMARY FOCUS, HOWEVER, WAS ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED AND ON IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. TREATMENT WAS GENERALLY LOW-KEY.

2. EDITORIALS WELCOMED PRESIDENT'S ASSERTION THAT U.S. WOULD CONTINUE POLICY OF DIALOG AND DETENTE, WITH GREAT POWERS AND WORK TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AND EUROPE. PAPERS COMMENDED PAST ACHIEVEMENTS SUCH AS VIETNAM AGREEMENT AND MIDDLE EAST DISDNGAGEMENT, BUT AT SAME TIME, THERE WERE EXPRESSIONS OF INABILITY TO FIND EVIDENCE OF NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES AND OF CONCERN THAT U.S. MIGHT NOT PAY SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO NEEDS OF SMALLER COUNTRIES.

3. YOMIURI SAID THAT STRONG U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ROLE WAS INDISPENSIBLE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE STRUCTURE, BUT IT AND OTHER PAPERS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT

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WATERGATE AND TALK OF IMPEACHMENT WOULD NOT HAVE ADVERSE

IMPACT ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITION.  
THEY SAID THAT THEY HOPED THESE DOMESTIC POLITICAL MATTERS  
COULD BE RESOLVED IN EXPEDITIOUS MANNER SO THAT U.S. COULD  
DIRECT FULL ATTENTION TO PRESSING DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ISSUES.  
TOKYO SHIMBUN DISPLAYED MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE BY APPLAUDING  
PRESIDENT'S DEMONSTRATED RESOLUTION TO VOVERCOME PROBLEMS FACING  
ADMINISTRATION.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COVERAGE OF SENATOR  
MANSFIELD'S SPEECH OF OTHER U.S. DOMESTIC REACTION  
TO STATE OF UNION MESSAGE.

5. COMMENT: JAPANES PRESS REACTION, AS IS  
OFTEN CASE, TENDED TO BE IMPRESSIONISTIC RATHER THAN  
ANALYTICAL. FOR MOST EDITORIAL WRITERS, STATE OF UNION  
MESSAGE SERVED SIMPLY AS POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR COMMENT ON U.S.  
DOMESTIC SCENE AND EXPRESSION OF FAMILIAR VIEWS OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL STABILITY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

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30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JAPANESE PRESS REACTION TO STATE OF UNION MESSAGE  
**TAGS:** PINT, JA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005